

COUNTRY DATA: VIETNAM : Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

The conquest of Vietnam by France began in 1858 and was completed by 1884. It became part of French Indochina in 1887. Vietnam declared independence after World War II, but France continued to rule until its 1954 defeat by Communist forces under Ho Chi MINH. Under the Geneva Accords of 1954, Vietnam was divided into the Communist North and anti-Communist South. US economic and military aid to South Vietnam grew through the 1960s in an attempt to bolster the government, but US armed forces were withdrawn following a cease-fire agreement in 1973. Two years later, North Vietnamese forces overran the South reuniting the country under Communist rule. Despite the return of peace, for over a decade the country experienced little economic growth because of conservative leadership policies, the persecution and mass exodus of individuals - many of them successful South Vietnamese merchants - and growing international isolation. However, since the enactment of Vietnam's "doi moi" (renovation) policy in 1986, Vietnamese authorities have committed to increased economic liberalization and enacted structural reforms needed to modernize the economy and to produce more competitive, export-driven industries. The country continues to experience small-scale protests from various groups, the vast majority connected to land-use issues and the lack of equitable mechanisms for resolving disputes. Various ethnic minorities, such as the Montagnards of the Central Highlands and the Khmer Krom in the southern delta region, have also held protests.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Southeastern Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, Gulf of Tonkin, and South China Sea, alongside China, Laos, and Cambodia
Area	331,210 sq km
Climate	tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (May to September) and warm, dry season (October to March)
Natural Resources	phosphates, coal, manganese, rare earth elements, bauxite, chromate, offshore oil and gas deposits, timber, hydropower
Total Renewable Water Resources	891.2 cu km (1999)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 71.39 cu km/yr (8%/24%/68%) per capita: 847 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	occasional typhoons (May to January) with extensive flooding, especially in the Mekong River delta
Environmental Issues	logging and slash-and-burn agricultural practices contribute to deforestation and soil degradation; water pollution and overfishing threaten marine life populations; groundwater contamination limits potable water supply; growing urban industrialization and population migration are rapidly degrading environment in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

PEOPLE	
Population	89,571,130 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Kinh (Viet) 86.2%, Tay 1.9%, Thai 1.7%, Muong 1.5%, Khome 1.4%, Hoa 1.1%, Nun 1.1%, Hmong 1%, others 4.1% (1999 census)
Religions	Buddhist 9.3%, Catholic 6.7%, Hoa Hao 1.5%, Cao Dai 1.1%, Protestant 0.5%, Muslim 0.1%, none 80.8% (1999 census)
Languages	Vietnamese (official), English (increasingly favored as a second language), some French, Chinese, and Khmer; mountain area languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)
Literacy Rate	90.3%
Major Infectious Diseases	<p>degree of risk: high</p> <p>food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever</p> <p>vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, and plague</p> <p>water contact disease: leptospirosis</p> <p>note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)</p>
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Communist state
Independence	2 September 1945 (from France)
Constitution	15 April 1992
Legal System	based on communist legal theory and French civil law system; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	paddy rice, coffee, rubber, cotton, tea, pepper, soybeans, cashews, sugar cane, peanuts, bananas; poultry; fish, seafood
Industries	food processing, garments, shoes, machine-building; mining, coal, steel; cement, chemical fertilizer, glass, tires, oil, paper
Import commodities	machinery and equipment, petroleum products, fertilizer, steel products, raw cotton, grain, cement, motorcycles
Import Partners	China 16.42%, Singapore 9.61%, Japan 8.96%, Taiwan 8.23%, South Korea 7.72%, Thailand 6.41%, Hong Kong 4.45%, US 4.27% (2009)
Export Commodities	crude oil, marine products, rice, coffee, rubber, tea, garments, shoes
Export Partners	US 21.43%, Japan 11.44%, China 7.27%, Australia 4.43%, Germany 4.27% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$2,900 (2009 est.)

Population below poverty line	12.3% (2009 est.)
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*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	74.9 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	5.5 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$2,995
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	25.8%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	24.7%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	28%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	74.2%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	80.2%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	88%
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	21.5%
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	1
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	9%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	16%

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	51%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	49%
Population without Access to Water (%)	6%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	25%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	2.56%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	328,200
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	NA
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	13%
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	30.4%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	.3%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	.6%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	.5%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$29.60
Population without Electricity (%)	10.9%

Vientnam's Public Expenditure

